Setting up of Urea Plants

409. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up a number of Urea plants in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, how many Urea plants are likely to be set up in Madhya Pradesh in the near future with details thereof; and

(c) if answer to part (b) is negative the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) A number of schemes in this regard have been included in the 8th Plan proposals which are yet to be finalised.

(b) It is proposed to double the capacity of Vijaipur plant of National Fertilizers Ltd. The project is likely to materialise during the 8th plan. The capacity of the new urea plant will be 7,26,000 tonnes per annum.

(c) Does not arise.

De-freezing of essential medicines

410. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to decontrol certain essential medicines;

(b) if so, details in this regard;

(c) whether the decontrol of essential drugs would escalate the prices beyond the reach of common man; and

(d) if so, the manner in which Government propose to ensure the availability of de-controlled essential drugs to the common man at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (d) The entire drug policy is still under review and as such, it would be premature to disclose the details at this stage. It has always been the endeavour of Government to ensure easy availability of both scheduled and non scheduled formulations in abundent quantity at reasonable prices to the consumers. This aspect is being borne in mind while reviewing the drug policy.

Rehabilitation of Bhopal Gas Victims and Workers of UCC

411. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position of compensation case and the amount of compensations paid to the victims of Bhopal Gas tragedy;

(b) whether Government have drawn up any concrete action plan for rehabilitation of victims of Bhopal gas tragedy and erstwhile workers of M/s. Union Carbide Ltd. Bhopal;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have made any budgetary provision to meet the cost of rehabilitation of the victims of gas tragedy and also earstwhile workers of Union Carbide Ltd., Bhopal;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) what steps have been taken by the Central Government for rehabilitation of gas victims so far and what are its achievements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) The adjudication proceedings for payment of compensation to the victims have commenced.

(b) to (f): The Government of Madhya Pradesh is implementing an Action Plan of Rs. 163.10 crores approved by the Central Government for relief and rehabilitation of the Bhopal Gas Victims. The expenditure on this action plan is being shared by the Central Government with the Government of Madhya Pradesh in the ratio of 75:25. The plan includes economic, social environmental and medical rehabilitation programmes. A sum of Rs. 36.67 crores has been released as the share of the Central Government so far. As regards the rehabilitation of the erstwhile workers of the Union Carbde Corporation, the Government of Madhya Pradesh have informed that 632 workers out of 634 were provided alternative employment. One employee was provided loan under self-employment scheme.

Essential Drugs

412 SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to reduce the number of essential drugs under the drug control policy ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b) The drug policy is still under review and as such, it would be premature to disclose the details at this stage.

Liability of M/S Hoechst

413. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA :

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be leased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3047 given in the Rajya Sabha on 19th December, 1991 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that by June, 1991 Government were required to determine the liability of M/s. Hoechst and communicate the same in terms of the Bombay High Court judgement ;

(b) whether it is a fact that liability has not been determined so far ;

(c) what steps have been taken to investigate the reasons for delay; and

(d) what is the tentative amount that has been worked out against the company so far, drug-wise, upto that period and why the balance amount has not been worked out so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) to (d). M/s Hoechst has no yet made available the entire data, in particular for the period 25.8.1987 in a number of cases. In the event of the We complete data not becoming available from the company, the Government will have no alternate but to make use of whatever data becomes available from other sources, to enable determination of the tentative liability of the company. The hearing envisaged in para No. 5 of the order dated 8.3.1991 of the Bombay High Court is proposed to be given to the company in the last week of March, 1992 whereafter final decision on the total liability under the DPEA would be taken and the speaking order will be passed. The total tentative liability of M/s Hoechst had been worked out as Rs. 77.81 crores against which the company had filed writ Petition in the Bombay High Court. The drugwise details are given in the attached statement. (*See below*).